

**Categorical Exclusion Documentation**  
**DOI-BLM-LLCON02000-2011-0045-CX**

**A. Background**

BLM Office: \_Kremmling

Lease/Serial/Case File #COC-67285

Project Title: Verizon Wireless ROW Amendment

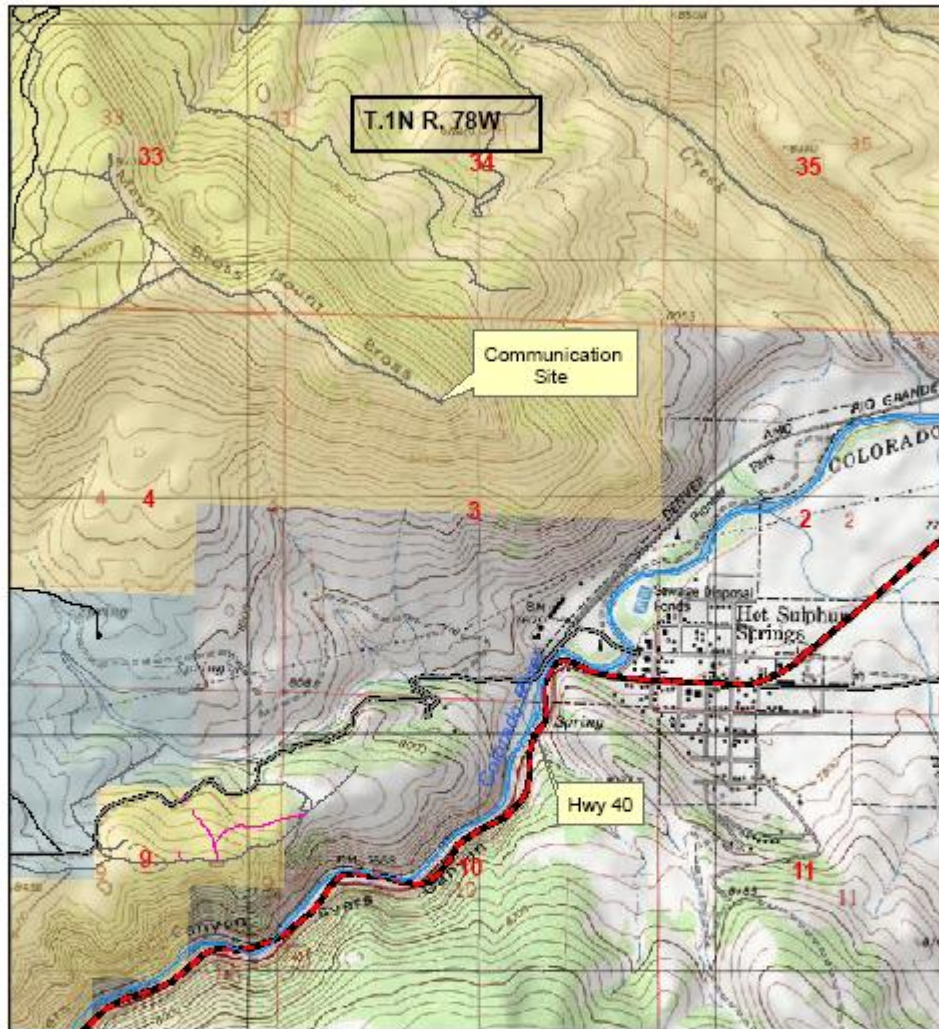
Location: T. 1 N., R. 78 W., Sections 3-5, 8 and 9, 6<sup>th</sup> P.M.  
T. 2 N., R. 78 W., Sections 33 and 34, 6<sup>th</sup> P.M.

Description and Rationale, including any Stipulations: Verizon Wireless has applied to amend their existing right-of-way for a communication tower on Mt. Bross in Grand County. The right-of-way includes an access road, buried power line, tower, and an equipment shelter. Verizon proposes to add six antennas to an existing tower. Equipment would be delivered by a 4wd truck. Time on site for construction would take approximately one week. No Temporary work areas are required as this is an existing site and work would be performed within the existing ROW. Otherwise no improvements would be made.

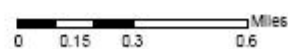
This action is needed to support the new 4G services Verizon Wireless will be providing to its' customers. Technologies in the wireless communications industry are changing quickly. The new "Smart Phones" which provide greater internet connectivity require unique antennas to support the frequencies used. If new antennas are not installed, this site would become somewhat obsolete providing greatly reduced coverage to the community. Verizon Wireless communication and data service would be greatly enhanced for it's customers in the area as well as those passing through.



# Verizon Wireless Mt. Bross Comm Site COC-67285



- Legend
- Land Status
- Land Status
- Bureau of Land Mgt
  - Division of Wildlife
  - National Park
  - US Forest Service
  - National Wildlife Refuge
  - Private
  - State
  - State Forest



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Annie Sperandio, 11-02-2011  
b:\sworld\lands\project\mapa\verizon\_coc67285.mxd

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

This action conforms to the Kremmling Resource Management Plan (RMP), Record of Decision (ROD)

**Date Approved/Amended:** December 19, 1984; Updated February 1999

The approval of a right-of-way is clearly consistent with the RMP objectives and decisions as follows: Provide the opportunity to utilize public lands for development of facilities which benefit the public, while considering environmental and agency concerns.

**C. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act**

The action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E., (13): Amendments to existing rights-of-way such as the upgrading of existing facilities which entail no additional disturbances outside the rights-of-way boundary.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate for this action because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 apply (see attached).

I considered the quality of the existing communication site for the operation that would occur and made a decision that no maintenance other than the temporary items noted above would be required.

**D. Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_/s/ Susan Cassel\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Cassel  
Associate Field Manager

\_\_\_\_11/10/11\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**E. Contact**

For more information, contact:

Annie Sperandio, Realty Specialist  
Bureau of Land Management  
P O Box 81  
Kremmling, CO 80459  
970-724-3062

## Review of Extraordinary Circumstances

The Department of the Interior Manual 516 2.3A (3) requires review of the following “extraordinary circumstances” (516 DM 2 Appendix 2) to determine if an otherwise categorically excluded action would require additional environmental analysis/documentation.

1) *Have significant impacts on public health or safety.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

Comments:

2) *Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

Comments:

3) *Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].*

☐ Yes ☒ No

Comments:

4) *Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

Comments:

5) *Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

Comments:

6) *Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

Comments:

7) *Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

Comments:

8) *Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

Comments:

9) *Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.*

( )Yes (X ) No

Comments:

10) *Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).*

( )Yes (X ) No

Comments:

11) *Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).*

( )Yes (X ) No

Comments:

12) *Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).*

( )Yes (X ) No

Comments:

**Reviewers:**

/s/ Paula Belcher  
Soil, Air, Water

11/10/11

/s/Bill B. Wyatt  
Cultural Resources

11/4/11

/s/Megan McGuire  
Wildlife

11/7/11

/s/Hannah Schechter  
Visual Resources

11/04/11

## **Decision Record for a Categorically Excluded Action**

### **Introduction and Background**

Verizon Wireless has applied to amend their existing right-of-way for a communication tower on Mt. Bross in Grand County. The right-of-way includes an access road, buried power line, tower, and an equipment shelter. Verizon proposes to add six antennas to an existing tower. Equipment would be delivered by a 4wd truck. Time on site for construction would take approximately one week. No Temporary work areas are required as this is an existing site and work would be performed within the existing ROW. Otherwise no improvements would be made.

### **Decision and Rationale**

I have decided to implement the amendment to add six antennas to the existing tower. This action is needed to support the new 4G services Verizon Wireless will be providing to its' customers. Technologies in the wireless communications industry are changing quickly. The new "Smart Phones" which provide greater internet connectivity require unique antennas to support the frequencies used. If new antennas are not installed this site will become somewhat obsolete providing greatly reduced coverage to the community. Verizon Wireless communication and data service will be greatly enhanced for it's customers in the area as well as those passing through. In addition, I have reviewed the plan conformance statement and have determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required.

### **Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Policies and Land Use Plans**

The action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, E., (13): Amendments to existing rights-of-way such as the upgrading of existing facilities which entail no additional disturbances outside the rights-of-way boundary.

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Record of Decision for the Kremmling Resource Management Plan approved in 1984 and updated in 1999, and with the land use plan terms and conditions as required by 43 CFR 1610.5-3(a).

### **Administrative Remedies**

Administrative remedies may be available to those who believe they will be adversely affected by this decision. Appeals may be made to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior, Board of Land Appeals (Board) in strict compliance with the regulations in 43 CFR Part 4. Notices of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days after publication of this decision. If a notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, such statement must be filed with this office and the Board within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed. The notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Department of Interior, 2800 Cottage Way, E-1712, Sacramento, CA 95825.

\_\_\_\_/s/ Susan Cassel\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Cassel  
Associate Field Manager

\_\_\_\_11/10/11\_\_\_\_\_  
Date